# MONTEREY NEWS

November 2005
VOLUME XXXV · Number 11


## The Town

### A 100-Year Storm

On Sunday, October 9, the Select Board declared Monterey to be in a state of emergency from an intense rainstorm of about twelve inches in less than two days. Once the emergency was made official, Ray Tryon, the Emergency Manager, took charge, which means that property damages must be reported to him. The next day Police Chief Gareth Backhaus checked all thirty-one houses on the Monterey side of Lake Buel, and was able to talk with five or six homeowners.

At the first Select Board meeting after the storm, Muriel Lazzarini asked about the town's response to its citizens during the two weeks of storms and subsequent flooding. Lazzarini pointed out that the town responded in exemplary fashion after the tornadoes of 1995 and 1997, yet in this most recent crisis the Fire Department refused to help homeowners with extensive flooding. She noted that this lack of help differed sharply from the Tyringham Fire Company's response to its citizens.

Tryon stated that the Fire Department should not use a $250,000 truck to pump out houses when doing so could damage the truck. "We don't pump muddy water," he said, noting that trash pumps, which Monterey does not own, are used to pump out cellars. Tryon also said that it is against the law for the Fire Company to go onto private property and work with public equipment. Finally, Tryon noted that Monterey does not have sufficient personnel to handle flooding problems. Tryon's objections notwithstanding, Lazzarini believes it is imperative for

June Thomas

*June Thomas's house at Laurel Banks on Lake Buel on Sunday, October 9th, after almost 11 inches of rain fell in a little over 24 hours.* *(See storm stories pp. 8, 9.)*

Monterey to have a thorough discussion of who takes care of what and whom during emergencies.

Select Board Chair Michèle Miller told Lazzarini that she and Select Board member Michael Storch met about the continuing crisis, paying particular attention to the gaps in response. They were able to identify some of the lacunae so that the Select Board can develop a more articulated civic response to crises.

Miller noted that people who live on lakes need to take responsibility for their property, just as the town must define what its responsibilities are. Pointing out that even though thirty-one homes are built on the flood plains of Lake Buel, Tryon said that there is no way for the Fire Company to stop the lake from rising during storms, and that lake dwellers should be told when and how to evacuate safely. After Miller asked rhetorically how elderly people in life-threatening situations can take care of themselves, she suggested that the town needs to find out who can check on people who are vulnerable.

Objecting to the finger-pointing as nonproductive, Backhaus preferred to move the discussion to how the town can best handle such situations. He agreed with Tryon that educating people on how to turn off their power and gas lines is a priority. Backhaus also said that people need information on how to deal with crises, and that the town should develop a mechanism for a certain amount of "hand-holding." When Tryon retorted that it's not his job to hold hands, Backhaus reaffirmed his belief that town officials need to determine what steps need to be taken in emergencies and let the community know what to expect. "Just by figuring that out," Backhaus said, "it will stop this nonsense."

The Pittsfield Fire Service sent a submersible trash pump to Monterey and then came to town with old forest fire trucks to help pump out basements. Storch suggested that the town buy several trash pumps for future floods.

Tryon has a list of all property damages from the storm that have been reported to him. The state will pay for a certain amount of those property damages. A FEMA representative visited Monterey on October 19 to inspect the roads and public infrastructure.

After Director of Operations Maynard Forbes presented the Select Board with a list of preliminary estimates for road repair from the storm totaling $234,300, Miller asked how the town will pay that amount. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier said that the bills must be paid, and that the town can expect a certain amount of state aid because of the severity of the storm. Even though the state has a good track record in providing financial aid in emergencies, it is quite possible that a special town meeting will need to be called to authorize additional funds.

Forbes said that the Highway Department must repair the roads immediately because asphalt plants close at the end of October, foreclosing the possibility of repair until spring. Tyringham Road is the first repair site. Because the road repairs are the result of an emergency, the Highway Department does not need to go through the normal bid process. By October 24, all roads except Wallace Hall were passable, and it was to be open by the end of that day.

The dam behind the town library, built in 1735 when there was a factory on the site, was damaged in the storm, Ray Tryon reported that the main importance of the dam, is for fire protection since the Fire Company can pump water out of the pool behind it, even in the winter when no other water is readily available. An engineer's report will be required before repairs can begin. A representative from FEMA told Tryon that the dam is an historic site so it has a high priority for outside funding. Three representatives of the Library Trustees met with the Select Board to clarify who is responsible for the dam, which abuts the library lawn, and the Trustees are concerned about potential liability suits if someone is injured by falling off the dam or on stones below the dam. Various historic documents conflict with one another over who


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has control over what. The Select Board and Gauthier assured the Trustees that the dam and the liability is a town responsibility. The Trustees suggested that a fence be put up and signs posted to keep people off the dam.

Tryon gave the *News* a copy of MEMA's flood safety tips, which include suggestions to not walk through flowing water, heed evacuation requests, avoid power lines and electrical wires, watch for animals, particularly snakes, look before you step, be alert for gas leaks, clean everything that gets wet, and, finally, in a dismally realistic note, tells residents to be prepared for a rough time.

Glynis Oliver

*The dam behind the Library and General Store on Sunday, October 9.*

Tyringham Road resident Jules Dahlman thanked Backhaus, Forbes, and Tryon for the work they did after the storm, a sentiment echoed by Storch.

## Highway Department

Storch made a motion that in the future the Lake Garfield drawdown begin on the first Tuesday after Columbus Day. There was no second. Forbes said that a 3-foot drawdown takes about one week. The drawdown began on October 17.

Forbes announced that a top coat was placed on the existing blacktop of Blue Hill and Gould Roads. Seventeen loads of gravel were placed in the ditches of Fairview Road after it was graveled. Although Miller promised to sow rye grass seeds on the sides of Fairview, the subsequent storms vanquished that idea.

After the Highway Department delivers the many boxes of records stored at the town shed, the appropriate town employees will sort through the records for safekeeping or disposal. Assistant Town Clerk Linda Thorpe told the Select Board that the records liaison for each town department has been given a retention schedule for its records. When the records liaison sorts through the files that have been delivered to Town Hall, he or she must receive permission from the state to dispose of any material, even those well past the retention schedule deadline.

## Police Department

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported a 911 call caused by a baby playing with a telephone and an abandoned 911 call about a tree down near the town beach that was not found, calls about trees stranded on power lines, two false alarms, and a stalled boat on Lake Garfield that then generated a call to the Fire Department. In response to a complaint from a homeowner on a private road about a tree cut down but not removed by the power company, Backhaus pointed out that tree removal on private roads must be provided by the residents.

The Police Department continues to patrol back roads, such as Beartown Mountain Road, with radar.

## Town Office

Melissa Noe, Town Secretary, has been keeping up with the Monterey website, www.monterey-ma.org, which currently lists the meeting calendar, meeting minutes, legal notices, town information, news and events, town government and departments, contact information, and downloadable forms. The town's email address is m0t0wn@berkshire.net.

The Select Board asked Noe to begin planning for the transfer station stickers for next year. The public is reminded to

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bring in their license plate numbers when they apply for the sticker.

Noe is preparing the paperwork for Bally Gally to become a unit of affordable housing.

Details on job descriptions, employee handbooks, mileage reimbursement, sick leave policy, and other such issues were discussed. The Wetlands Protection Act pays the salary for the Conservation Commission's secretary.

## Board of Assessors

Debra Mielke, representing the Finance Committee, and Stan Ross and Bob Gauthier from the Board of Assessors met with the Select Board to discuss the overrun in the Assessors' budget. During the 2005-2006 budget discussions, the Board of Assessors requested $7,000 for its budget and $20,000 for the assistant assessor. The final budget provided $5,500 for the board, and $16,000 for the assistant assessor. Both budget items are running much higher than projected.

As Ross plunked down on the Select Board desk a tall stack of documents representing the current printout of every house in Monterey, he noted that many, perhaps even most, of the records are out of date, which is the cause of the board's cost overrun.

The state knows the town's records are seriously out of date, and the town must bring records up to date; thus, the board hired Mayflower, a subsidiary of Patriots, to look at recent sales. They randomly chose thirty property cards, checked them out, and found that twenty-seven of the thirty were incorrect. In addition to higher payments for more extensive record updates, the board had to buy a new computer.

It takes ninety minutes to measure a house, so the board can guesstimate what it will cost to do the revaluations. At this point they are about $13,000-15,000 over budget. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier said that at this point, there is no reason to have a special town meeting for the additional expenses, but that may happen in the fullness of time.

The Patriots, a firm hired to conduct the revaluation, has a contract for $12,000. In the future, the board will most likely ask for money to do one-third of the revaluations every year rather than one large sum every third year. Sales are the driving force behind revaluation, so the town's growth in 2004, the year that will determine the 2006 tax rate, will prove helpful for the levy limit.

Miller asked for a list of all of the Chapter 61 properties, those which receive tax breaks because of agricultural, timbering, or recreational use. She suggested that owners of such properties be reminded of their obligations when they renew their status, and that Monterey has the right of first refusal if the properties are to be sold.

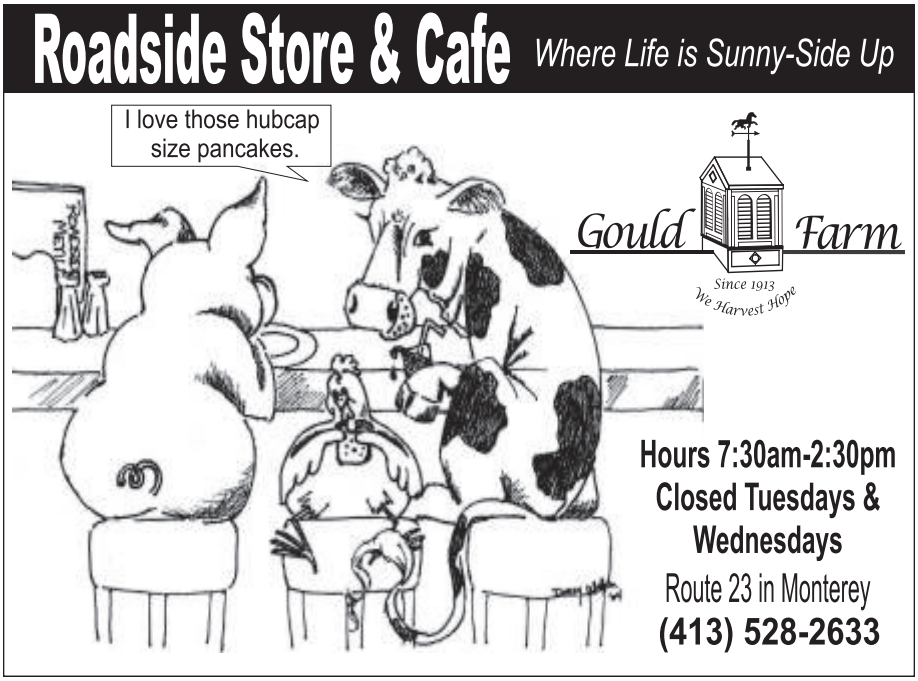
Jon Sylbert, president of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust, reminded his fellow Select Board members that the town has a lot of land under conservation restriction and in agricultural protection status. A prior assessor mistakenly put those properties back on the tax rolls, so Sylbert wanted to insure this problem did not recur.

The December 19th quarterly meeting will feature the assessors presenting their findings. A tax rate will have been set by that time, which will be helpful for a full discussion.

## Building Inspector

Building Inspector Don Torrico reported on various permit problems, including an apartment being built over a garage, a stop-work order on property on Blue Heron Road, and continuing neighbor complaints about the new building on an old barn lot on Hupi Road.

Torrico expressed concern about the lack of appropriate paperwork for construction by Gould Farm, which has a considerable number of structures on its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property. The permit that Torrico issued for the foundation of a new building at the farm is of the "proceed at your own risk" variety. Torrico granted the provisionary permit to accommodate the farm's race with the weather.

Torrico continued to voice frustration that he falls further behind with his duties each week. Storch asked if the Town Secretary could relieve him of any office work, and although Torrico does not have the time to train anyone, it was agreed that Noe could be of assistance.

Permits have been issued to James F. Johnston, Stuart Steiner, Thom Lipiczky, Ray Tryon, S. E'Alessio, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay, Linda Howitt, Jeff Wilkinson, Timpane Construction, and Christopher Hanson.

## Pole Hearing on Gould Road

Gould Road residents Alan and Christine Fleisler, abutters of property requiring electrical service, questioned the placement of a utility pole on the north side of Gould Road. Donald Nutting, a representative of Massachusetts Electric, explained its proposed location. The contractor for the property dug the ditch before permission was granted for the pole, causing a conflict with Forbes, who wants the wires out of the town's right-of-way. A lengthy discussion ensued between Tree Warden Roger Tryon and Forbes about the problems incorrect pole placement could cause the town in the future, the law that requires contractors to receive permission before digging trenches, and the number of trees that may or may not be affected. Forbes stated that trees on private property are not within the purview of the Tree Warden.

## Animal Control Officer

Although the Board of Health is responsible for sending a nomination for the Animal Control Officer to the state for appointment, the Select Board has become embroiled in the matter. The role and duties of animal oversight officials have become more complicated over time, and Monterey must address the current complexity. Melissa Noe was asked to compile a list of all requirements for the training, certification, and insurance for animal control officers. The Select Board will notify the Board of Health about insurance coverage and other matters pertaining to the position.

After questions arose about liability insurance carried by animal control officers, Linda Thorpe told the Select Board that all people elected to town boards are automatically covered by town liability insurance, but people appointed to positions must carry their own insurance.

Bob Danelli, currently acting as the census taker for dogs and cats, told the Select Board that he has been waiting to receive the Barn Book and the Quarantine Books. Danelli thought he would receive these books automatically, but the Select Board did not know that it should play a facilitating role in this regard. Danelli is not yet certified by the state.

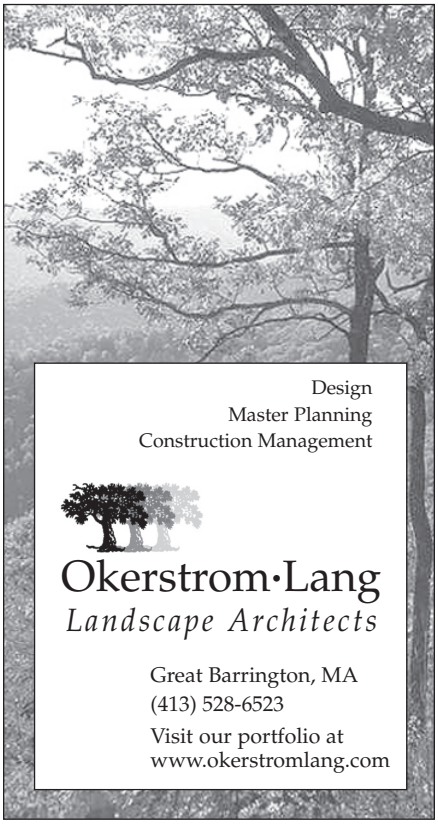
The Select Board thanked Dale Duryea for the job he has been doing on beaver control. Duryea reported that he has been burying beavers on his property. He supports a bill before the state legislature that would allow the use of killer traps for beavers.

## Dock Rebuilding

Chris Blair, member of the Conservation Commission, gave a brief history of laws regarding dock rebuilding to the Select Board. Docks built before 1984 could be bigger than docks built later, and in 1996 the state passed an amnesty law for nonconforming docks built in a certain time period. None of the laws is straightforward or easy to understand for lay people, so Janet Cathcart, a member of the Planning Board, asked that the town publish a set of standards for dealing with docks. A lengthy discussion on the possible limitations and permutations of dock enhancement highlighted the confusion surrounding this matter, which may be brought to some clarity in the future.

## This and That

The Select Board will renew the Capital Planning Committee, which estimates the need for major repairs and purchases of town equipment, to "bring it into the >

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twenty-first century." Miller articulated a desire for a fiscal conservative on the committee. Barbara Gauthier reminded the Select Board that the purchase of equipment requires a professional recommendation, which is quite different from a financial perspective.

While most of those involved in the discussion agreed that Forbes should be a member of such a committee, Debra Mielke said she feels it would present a conflict of interest for him. Mielke also questioned the need for a new highway employee, one needed particularly for plowing. Sylbert reminded Mielke that the citizenry expressed strong sentiment that Forbes should not be spending his time plowing. Gauthier reported that Forbes is ineligible for overtime, but that in the past he has received bonuses. Mielke suggested that what one person calls a bonus can be interpreted as overtime to someone else.

Janet Cathcart, president of the Friends of Lake Garfield, showed the Select Board a mock-up of a Lake Garfield Watershed Area sign that will be placed in five places in town. FLG will pay for the signs, and the Highway Department will install them.

Chuck Mielke gave a list of the Education Committee members to the Select Board, asking that the committee be provided with a time frame and mission statement so it can begin its work. The committee is sponsoring a survey that will be available at Town Hall and on the town website. In all, about fifteen to twenty people are interested in serving on this committee.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
.....7–9 p.m.

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# Public Hearing Nov. 17 on Proposed New Town Bylaw

The Planning Board is holding a Public Hearing on November 17, 2005, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall to review a proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw. This bylaw will allow for the construction of ADU's, also known as In-Law Apartments, on properties with two or more acres, or on smaller parcels by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. The text of the proposed bylaw follows:

Definition: Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) — A self-contained Dwelling Unit, as defined in Section II. of the Monterey Zoning Bylaws, that is either attached or within an existing Single Family Dwelling Unit or is a detached, freestanding accessory building, other than mobile homes, on the same lot as the existing Single Family Dwelling. An ADU shall not be a mobile home or a trailer.

Amend Section IV.B.1. g. Agricultural-Residential District

New Use by Right — Attached or detached Accessory Dwelling Unit that complies with the criteria below.

1. The unit will be a complete, separate Dwelling Unit.

2. The minimum lot size must be 2 acres.

3. Only one accessory dwelling unit can be created on an existing lot containing a Single Family Dwelling Unit. (Otherwise please refer to Section IV.B. Agricultural-Residential District, 2. Uses By Special Permit Only l. Multi-family dwelling.)

4. One of the two units on the lot must be must be occupied by the owner of the lot, and in the event of sale of the property, the new owner must occupy one of the two units. (Process to required annual notice to Town and requirement to be recorded to follow chain of title.)

5. The maximum living area for the accessory dwelling unit cannot exceed 1000 square feet.

6. This section allows the addition of one accessory dwelling unit of 1000 square feet or less per 2-acre lot with or without 200 feet of frontage. For information on adding more than one additional dwelling unit refer to the requirements for Multi-family Dwellings in Section IV.B.2.l. (3).

7. A building permit must be obtained for alteration of existing single family dwelling unit for the creation of an internal or attached accessory dwelling or for the creation or alternation of a freestanding accessory dwelling unit.

8. Application must be made to the Board of Health for a determination of the adequacy or additional requirements for water supply and sanitation.

9. Single family dwellings with accessory dwelling units must have sufficient off-street parking area for a minimum of three cars.

10. No new curb cuts will be allowed for the addition of an accessory dwelling unit unless approved by the Highway Department.

11. The architectural character of the single family dwelling shall be preserved. Exterior materials, roof form, and window spacing and proportion shall match the character of the existing single family dwelling.

12. Owners of accessory dwelling units that pre-exist the enactment of this section of the bylaws must apply for an occupancy permit no later than one year after enactment. Said permit will determine the safety of the existing structure. Applicants must also seek a determination from the Board of Health as to the adequacy or additional requirements for water supply and sanitation.

New Use by Special Permit Only — Attached or detached Accessory Dwelling Unit that does not comply with the criteria allowing such units by right in the following respects:

1. The lot is a non-conforming lot outside of the Lakeshore District.

2. The lot and/or structure is in the Business District.

— Maggie Leonard
Monterey Planning Board

## Richard Edelstein to Speak at Community Potluck

The first community potluck of the season will be November 9th at the Monterey Meetinghouse. The potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a talk by part-time Monterey resident Richard Edelstein. A cardiologist by profession, Dr. Edelstein will speak about "The Big Bang," a subject that reflects his great interest in cosmology, a branch of astronomy. For the last five years he has worked as a docent at Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, teaching visitors about the exhibits. He has also taught astronomy and cosmology at the adult education program in Pearl River, New York.

Everyone is welcome at the community potluck dinners. Bring something to share, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. The program follows the dinner at around 7:00 p.m. In case of bad weather, check the church answering machine (528-5850) for a message about cancellation or postponement. This year the potlucks will take place on the second Wednesday of the month from November through May. Watch the *Monterey News* for program information.

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## Flu Shot Clinic November 9

The annual FLU CLINIC for Monterey seniors will be held on Wednesday, November 9, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Monterey Town Hall Meeting Room. The vacine is free for Medicare recipients and is administered by the Visiting Nurses Association with support of the Monterey Council on Aging. The cost is $30 for anyone between the ages of 18 and 64 (unless eligible for MA Health).

### Details

The inactivated influenza vaccine will be provided by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association in a clinic setting to the following persons:

•Aged 65 or older

•Aged 18-64 who:

Have chronic cardiac, or pulmonary conditions, including asthma (hypertension is not considered a chronic cardiac condition);

Have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year due to chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression caused by medications or HIV, or:

Have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions, or that can increase the risk of aspiration;

Pregnant women;

Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months.

## Harvest Celebration at New England Keswick

On Saturday, November 5, New England Keswick will be celebrating 65 years in ministry with a Harvest Festival extravaganza! Starting at 11 a.m., you can come and walk our beautiful grounds and take in all of the exciting activities and contests. Have your face painted, ride a pony, enter a pie-eating contest, listen to live music, go on a hayride, or bid on an item in our silent auction. You can bob for apples, build a scarecrow, or satisfy your sweet tooth at our bake sale. A cookout menu will be available for lunch from 11–1, with hot apple cider, popcorn, and donuts throughout the day. The Festival culminates with a traditional Thanksgiving Feast at 6 o'clock. And best of all, everything is FREE! Please bring your families and come help us celebrate!

New England Keswick is a nonprofit nondenominational youth camp and retreat center. Please call the office at 413-528-3604 if you have any questions or for more information. Reservations are required if you plan on staying for the Thanksgiving dinner.

We are located at 73 Chestnut Hill Road in Monterey. From Monterey Center go east on Rt. 23 and take a right onto Sandisfield Rd. Take your first left onto Cronk Rd. and your next left onto Chestnut Hill and follow the signs to park. Parking is free.

***Note: The November 10th Blood Pressure Clinic has been cancelled.**

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*After the deluge, Sunday, October 9, 2005: Blue Heron Landing, Lake Buel (left, photo June Thomas); Konkapot River at River Road (right, photo Will Marsh). In most places the water level peaked about 2 a.m., a few hours before these pictures were taken.*

## And the Rains Came and the Water Rose

On Sunday morning, October 9th, when I awoke and looked out my bedroom window my first reaction was amazement. Then a little fear took over. We were surrounded by water on all four sides of he house. I ran downstairs to see if it had come into the first floor, but we were lucky—it was up to the foundation but still had about four inches to go before it would come into the house.

Then my eyes focused out on Lake Buel, and I saw boats, chairs, tables, docks, etc., floating all around. My three-section dock had come apart; one part attached to our pontoon boat, another with the water-filled rowboat and paddleboat. Then I noticed that my neighbor's dock and pontoon boat were gone, nowhere in sight. The ski boat of my neighbors on the other side had capsized, looking a little like the *Titanic*.

I stood there for awhile taking this all in, then realized I had to do something! I phoned my son Jim in Amherst, and he and his brother E. J. were here by 9:00 a.m. It was warm that day, and the water was still pretty warm, too, so we all put on bathing suits and got to work. The water was waist high, so this was the only way we could get around.

We emptied the water out of canoes and kayaks and tied them to the house by the doors so they were available for use when necessary. Other neighbors appeared, so we had more people to help take docks out and bring them up to dry land. My garage had sixteen inches of water in it, so they pushed my car out of the water to higher land. Of course it wouldn't start, so we left it there and went back to work retrieving the barbecue grill, picnic table, benches, chairs, boating equipment, etc.

We spent the better part of the day helping each other. We retrieved our neighbor's boat and dock, which were down at the other end of the lake, and, with a lot of failures at first, finally got the ski boat turned over, bailed out, and up on shore. The children, having helped a lot by picking up and rescuing various floating and sunken objects, were then in their kayaks, canoes, and rowboats paddling over land they usually only walked over.

I took my camera and my kayak to explore around the lake. It was unbelievable! You could paddle right up to the windows of one house, there was water inside up to the top of the sofa. The lake was now right up to the apartments at the Blue Heron, usually about one hundred yards from the


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*Brewer Pond outlet (above, photo Glynis Oliver); Tyringham Road (right, photo Maynard Forbes).*

water. Many houses had some amount of water trickling in through the doors. I saw several other capsized boats and many filled with water, half submerged. I heard that a lot of the floodwater in the lake was coming from the Konkapot River, which was so high that it was backflowing into the lake at the south end through what is usually an outlet.

People were trying to put barriers or make small dams in front of their doors facing the lake because someone was out there in a speedboat making huge waves from the wake. We waved frantically at him to stop, but he ignored everyone. There always seems to be one thoughtless, inconsiderate person to spoil the joy and satisfaction that the rest of us had in helping each other.

We had so much to be thankful for—the water had started to recede in the afternoon, no one was hurt, we neighbors got to know and appreciate each other more, there was a pot of chili con carne on my stove, and the hot tub was still working!

— June Thomas
Laurel Banks, Monterey

## How Lucky We Were Our Levees Held!

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that it's been rather wet around here lately. The night eight inches of rain came down, many of us awoke to branches strewn, water in the basement, driveways like mini Grand Canyons, and roofs doing their best to keep us sheltered from this inordinate weather event.

All told, ten Monterey roads were rendered impassable and in need of immediate repair. In one dramatic case, a-ten-foot deep, twenty-to-thirty-foot-wide channel was carved across Brett Road by raging waters. On New Marlborough Road two hundred feet of road simply disappeared in one overnight period. I always thought that us mountain dwellers were immune to things like lowland flooding—but obviously we're not.

Each workday, as I blithely head down Tyringham Road toward Lee and ultimately Lenox, I always look left at about Art School Road to gaze out over swampy Heron Pond. It's always seemed to me in passing that the pond sat higher than the roadway? But I'd never stopped to take a better look at "how" or even "if" this were really so. Two days after the major storm, as I headed down Tyringham Road I noticed first castaway barricades then the Tryon work crew busily dealing with what rushing water had done. Lee Tryon smiled as he told me the beavers did it! Turns out our clever and ingenious friends had the beginnings of a new housing project of sticks and mud in the culvert and so when Heron Pond overfilled and began its runoff, this plug redirected water down the road.

Certainly the bad news for the town was the damage two to three feet of roaring water caused as it swept away bottoms of driveways and undermined black top during its descent toward Lake Garfield. No one was hurt of course and we can all enjoy trading stories. But the good news is that the major levees held firm! What a miracle that the beaver dam on Heron Pond that probably created (and now certainly contains) this vast body of extra water didn't give way, the way the manmade levees did in New Orleans.

As touched and as mobilized as we've all been to try and help the victims along the Gulf coast, I'm sure each of us has entertained the thought at least once that "Aren't we lucky to be HERE and not THERE!" And yet, this very week in a small way THERE could have become HERE. And but for the miracle of Heron Pond's beaver dam holding firm we too could have faced a much bigger crisis right here in far away Monterey.

— Eileen Lawlor
with help from Maynard Forbes

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## Lake Garfield Watershed

In Monterey we all live in a catchment area called a watershed. The common destination of most runoff (runoff: a catchall term for fluid laden with the salts from our driveway de-icing, those chemicals we sprayed around the house, and the elements of every fluid we flushed down our plumbing system) from our properties is the Konkapot River, and then the Housatonic. Water is a fine solvent and is a carrier for all those elements: phosphorus, nitrogen, and more sinister chemicals used around our homes. For many of us in Monterey, the first stop for our runoff is Lake Garfield. Being in the Lake Garfield watershed means that everything goes to the lake, and some of it stays there.

If you live on or anywhere along the lakeshore, you are reminded daily where all your liquid effluent goes. However, out of sight really is out of mind, so if you live on Hupi Road, Art School Road, Mt. Hunger Road, and any of the cross streets of that group, Route 23 from Mt. Hunger to town center, and Tyringham Road up to the top of the hill, you may not think about being in the Lake Garfield watershed, or what that really means. Know it or not, the runoff finds its way into the lake as its first stop on the way to the Housatonic. It arrives not only from the three brooks that feed Lake Garfield, but it runs through the ground, along buried rock ledges, by groundwater seepage, from numerous springs, and through storm drains. And that water carries those dissolved chemicals with it. There they act as extra nutrients, which stimulate the plant overgrowth in the lake. Do they stay a little while and then go on over the dam and into the Konkapot? No.

Lake Garfield has a dark secret. Down in the deepest part of the lake is an abyss, about thirty feet deep, which parallels the steep side of the hill, parallel to Elephant Rock Road. It is a place where the water is always cold, and where phosphorus and other persistent chemicals of many years past live on without being passed along out of the lake. Because of the interactions with these chemicals, oxygen is used up, and fish that normally like cold water cannot live in this part of the lake mainly because they can't breathe. Normal reactions do not occur here. When we take lake measurements, these low oxygen readings begin to show up at about 7 meters depth (approximately 23 feet). Each year's nutrients add to the nutrients of years past and remain to feed water plant growth.

In 1994 the Commonwealth began a comprehensive watershed initiative, setting plans in motion, then in 2000, with characteristic frugality, restructured its watershed planning, (read cut back) but properly kept the focus on holistic planning and management. This commonsense approach tells us it is useless to throw herbicides into the waters to kill weeds while at the same time we're loading up

the groundwater with phosphorus and nitrates from runoff of homes and farms. It says that the ecosystem we need to be concerned about isn't just the lake, it is the whole watershed.

To make everyone more aware of this ecosystem we live in, the Friends of Lake Garfield have funded watershed road signs to be posted on main road intersections. The sign is reproduced above. Look in future issues for ways to keep the watershed healthy.

We'll also be sending letters to each homeowner in the watershed with information on this subject. We plan to make public lots of good information, bringing in experts in various fields to our 2006 meetings to give us the best and most people-friendly ways to protect our environment, our watershed, and our lake.

— Patricia Edelstein

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## Community and the Community Center

It is mid-October, the time of year when I buy my airline ticket bound for Sanibel Island. I was pleased to find a new nonstop flight from Hartford to Fort Myers at a bargain price. If Wilma is kind, she won't blow the porch away ("lanai" in island lingo) where I sit, doze, and read every year during the second week of January. I am looking forward to some days off; I haven't really had one since early March, although I did go to Vermont for an overnight in September to help Tarsi settle into college.

I am remembering back to last January when, while reading on the lanai, I came across an article in the local Sanibel paper announcing the retirement of a longtime City Council member. The interviewer asked this fellow which of the things the council had done over the past twenty years had had the most impact on Sanibel's ability to retain the small-town, community-oriented atmosphere that makes it such a wonderful place. One of his statements jumped off the page at me: he said that they had had the foresight to never turn down a piece of land that was offered to the town.

We are so fortunate to live in a town whose citizens have the same wisdom! Edith Wilson certainly had the foresight to realize the value of her property to the town. And in setting up certain stipulations for her bequest, she was pushing us all to a higher level of thinking, as well as action, when it comes to community planning. She left the 28.6 acres to the town BUT we have to meet her bequest part way: her house must be used and maintained for municipal purposes. What an opportunity we have here. Monterey has wanted a community center for years and now we can have one. It will start small and be warm and homey. A single, bright, large room suitable for many varied activities, designed with possible future expansion in mind. It will be something that belongs to us, the town citizens. We can use it for whatever we need or want to.

It is an undeniable fact that we are close to having depleted the earth's supply of fossil fuels, so it is reasonable to assume that we should start considering traveling less to meet our needs. With the proliferation of technology that encourages us to do so much by ourselves, as individuals, we are in danger of becoming physically isolated. Giving our all to developing a sense of community here in town is a very timely issue.

When we are long gone, Monterey will still be growing, barring some earthly catastrophe. I moved back to town in 1979, when town government was run out of a small room upstairs over the current kindergarten. Look how we've grown just since then! By restructuring Edith's house to fulfill the town's desire to have a social gathering space, we can insure this beautiful piece of centrally located property will be retained by the town for future use. We have the opportunity to join Edith in leaving an incredible legacy behind.

— Susan Sellew

## Library Hosting Book Discussions for Children

The Monterey Library will be hosting a book discussion group for children age nine to twelve. The first meeting will be Monday night, Nov. 7, from 7 to 7:45 p.m. in the library. Any interested readers in that age group are welcome to come and help plan out a series of book discussions to be held every month until April. Franny Huberman will be leading the discussions. For further information, please call the Monterey Library at 528-3795.

## Monterey Cemeteries Notice

All cemeteries in Monterey will be closed for winter burials from November 1, 2005, reopening April 1, 2006, weather permitting.


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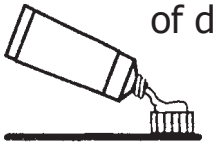

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

## Summer's End and Thoughts of Katrina Relief

Labor Day Weekend was busy at Lake Garfield, with many trying to soak up the last days of summer and to say goodbye to friends they wouldn't be seeing again until Memorial Day 2006. However, several young girls spent one of those weekend days raising money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Emma Fried, ten and a half, daughter of Robin Fried and Judy Greenwald of New York City and Point Road, Monterey, led her friends Avery Luna Deutsch (eleven), Zerlina Panush (seven) and Phoebe Bogdanoff (four) in selling treats to beachgoers. They raised an astonishing $265 in just a few hours, with the money going to FEED THE CHILDREN, which Emma saw recommended by CNN.

Emma Fried said "Everyone is involved in this hurricane. We are lucky to be here, so I wanted to help." She was pleased by the generosity of the beachgoers in buying sandwiches, lemonade, birthday cake, orange juice, and candy. The other volunteers also voiced their opinions. Avery: "It is such a horrible thing. I feel so fortunate, every day." Zelina: "This was Emma's idea. It is all really sweet, we all helped, people donated." Phoebe added, "It was fun."

Judy Greenwald, mother of Emma, was touched by the great community spirit that allowed it to happen and to do such good. Two years ago at the beach she, Robin, and Emma hosted a Labor Day "party" much like this, with the money that was raised going to the Humane Society.

We are lucky to have residents like this in Monterey. Thank you, Emma, for such a lovely idea.

— Chandler Crawford

### Dual Homeowners Corner

## Long Winter Evenings and Logs on the Fire

If you put your key in the lock on the door and turn it to lock, planning to wait until spring 2006 for your next visit to your lake house, you may miss the enchantment of bright stars, clear, crisp sunny days, and resting winter. Initially the major users of our summer cottage were field mice and chipmunks. How they managed in that freezing environment was something that we were willing to discover. We soon realized that the Berkshires offered a different kind of beauty in the winter. A majestic silence, vistas of the surrounding mountains and lake, and the warmth of a glowing fire in the fireplace accompanied by cuddling in a luxurious feather bed. We were even lucky to have our three little guys agree to snuggle with us against the cold evenings, although it was necessary to keep the hearth blazing all night. It did not detract from our enjoyment of the silence and peace of winter.

Our children were fascinated with their discovery, on awakening, that steam was coming out of their mouths because of the cold temperature. Before we got up to prepare breakfast, the children challenged each other as "fire spitting dragons." As winter in the Berkshires became a new discovery for Tom and me, the sound of the crackling of the ice on the lake became a sound of welcome. Of course, our car had to rest next to the main road, and making our way through the snow down to our house invited creative solutions. It was an exciting adventure. Over the years we have learned new ways to solve this problem.

Thank you to Tom for helping me write this winter story.

Please send us your thoughts about winter in the Berkshires and any other comments.

— Barbara Haver

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## New Books at the Monterey Library:

**Adult Fiction**

*Abide with Me,* E. Lynn Harris
*Goodnight Nobody,* Jennifer Weiner
*School Days,* Robert Parker
*The Lincoln Lawyer,* Michael Connelly
*Vita,* Melania Mazzucco
*Friends, Lovers, Chocolate,* Alexander McCall Smith
*A Wedding in December,* Anita Shreve
*Anansi Boys,* Neil Gaiman
*Polar Shift,* Clive Cussler
*Camel Club,* David Baldacci
*Memories of My Melancholy Whores,* Gabriel Garcia Marquez
*Ordinary Heroes,* Scott Turow
*Saving Fish from Drowning,* Amy Tan
*Stranger House,* Reginald Hill

**Adult Nonfiction**

*The Assassins' Gate,* George Packer
*Native Plants of the Northeast,* Donald Leopold
*America(The Book),* John Stewart
*You: The Owner's Manual,* Michael Roizen
*The City of Falling Angels,* John Berendt
*Now I Can Die in Peace: How ESPN's Sports Guy Found Salvation with a Little Help from Nomar, Pedro, Shawsank and the 2004 Red Sox*
*The Year of Magical Thinking,* Joan Didion
*The World Was Going Our Way,* Christopher Andrew
*Best Recipes in the World,* Mark Bittman
*Healthy Aging,* Andrew Weil
*Never Have Your Dog Stuffed,* Alan Alda
*Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln,* Doris Kearns Goodwin

**Young Adult**

*Replay,* Sharon Creech
*The Scarecrow and His Servant,* Philip Pullman

**Children**

*Leaf Man,* Lois Ehlert

*Squash, you say? Part of Gould Farm's bountiful harvest.*

## Gould Farm Harvests Bounty

Steve Enoch, Gould Farm Gardens Manager, beamed with satisfaction recently as he eyed the fall harvest of squash being cured in the farm's greenhouse. Varieties of squash including 800 lbs of acorn, 1,500 lbs of butternut, 100 lbs of buttercup, 600 lbs of spaghetti, and 500 lbs of delicatta are undergoing a week of greenhouse preparation that reduces the likelihood of rot. After the greenhouse preparation, the squash are placed in Gould Farm's warm/dry root cellar for storage. "It's been a good year of harvesting at Gould Farm," Mr. Enoch said.

**Christmas Party**

**For all**
**Young & old**

**Dec. 11, at 1:30 PM**

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## It's October

*The sun is warm in the azure sky,*
*Blue asters nod as the winds pass by,*
*And here and there birds congregrate*
*To plan their trip to some southern state;*
*While milkweed seeds on silken threads*
*By autumn winds tossed from their beds,*
*Go darting, sailing far and wide,*
*Like butterflies, over the countryside.*
*Sprite squirrels are gathering in their store*
*To last until spring comes once more.*
*The multicolor hillsides gay*
*Their robes muse doff and cast away.*
*It's October!*

*The clear night air is growing chill,*
*We hear no more the whip-poor-will;*
*The Harvest Moon is smiling down*
*On rustling corn scalks crisp and brown*
*And somewhere hidden from our sight*
*A chirping cricket greets the night.*
*An owl "Whoo-whoos" in an old oak tree,*
*Another replies from over the lea*
*Startling the leaves chat still hang on.*
*Where, oh where has the summer gone?*
*It's October!*

— Eleanor Kimberley

## From the Meetinghouse…

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.… Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings.… So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.… Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.' " (Exodus 3)

When a baby acquires language, she also acquires the ability to imagine. Before language there is only immediate experience. If something is not close enough to be sensed, to a baby it doesn't exist. For this reason, a baby's immediate contact with her mother—mother, that is, either by birth or adoption or default—is essential, because she doesn't know herself apart from her mother, and if her mother doesn't exist than neither does she. This is very frightening, I imagine—the worst feeling of desolation possible, and one we have all felt even if only for a minute or two. After all, each of us was a baby once.

When a baby acquires language, though, things begin to change; now she can imagine the continued existence of even those things she can't feel or see or taste or hear. Acquiring language is not just about acquiring the ability to vocalize but also the ability to invoke. This has been the change that has been both slow and sudden in my house over these last few months, as my son Tobias, now sixteen months old, was once in the habit, when waking up and finding himself alone in his crib in his room, of immediately beginning to cry out of loneliness and perhaps fear, but now, upon waking up, spends some time talking to himself, saying first, "mamamamamamamama." I notice him at other times of the day too, playing on his own at something and saying to himself, "mamamamamamama." He has known that I am "Mama" for almost a year now, but only in the last few months has he been able to say this. And while sometimes when he says it he seems to be calling me to his side, more often he is calling me to mind. He has discovered that he can bring "mamamamamama" with him wherever he goes, and while it is no lasting substitute for an immediate experience of his mama, it can carry him far, every day farther than the day before.

This is the gift that God gave to Moses and Moses gave to humankind in speaking forth the name that had never before been spoken forth. It's a strange name on the face of it—Yahweh, spelled here with four letters, "YHWH." Most English Bibles translate this as "Lord," though the Jerusalem Bible retains the proper name as far as we know it to be, "Yahweh." We have lost the pronunciation of this to history because out of reverence the people to whom this name was revealed, from Moses' time until the second Temple period—around the third or second century B.C.E., curtailed their calling on the name, using instead a number of euphemisms, until use of it stopped altogether. This was for good reason: it was an ancient belief that knowledge of the name of a deity could be used to exert magical control over that deity or in partnership with that deity over humanity. But it seems to me that God revealing God's name to Moses was a way of dispelling this myth at least in regard to this God, who is eternal, unquenchable, irresistible being, and who therefore is beyond any human control, and yet desires never to be beyond human reach.

We have had a hard few weeks, we of the human race, with earthquakes and mudslides and hurricanes and all the suffering that attends such things. Old habit has us call these "acts of God." And we wonder what God was intending to communicate with such a brutal act of destruction. Who is to blame? Whose fault is this? Whose unrighteousness made such unmitigated disaster justified? We know so little about this God, the eternally


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present yet ever elusive "I Am," that we cannot know exactly what God is doing, or why. But this we do know, as revealed in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ: that while we crucify to death, God raises to life; while we look for one to punish or blame, God looks upon all in forgiveness and love; while we reject all suffering, forcing it as we can upon another, God enters all suffering that it might be redeemed.

This is perhaps cold comfort. After all, wouldn't a God who promised to prevent such suffering be better use to us than one who promises never to leave us to our suffering alone? Wouldn't a God who steers hurricanes away from coastlines be more what we want than one who stands with and within those who are hardest hit? The blessing that the Lord spoke to Moses that he should speak to Aaron and his sons, that they in turn should speak to the Israelites, was this familiar one spoken so often in church to the church: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." As one friend summed this blessing up, it is essentially saying that God is looking at us, and in God's seeing and recognizing us we are somehow blessed. This, I should say, is all well and good, but is it really enough? Can't we have some more practical assurance than that?

These are legitimate questions, and I'm sorry to admit that I have no answers to them. But this I do know: that there was a time in his first few weeks when Tobias could not look at me in the eye, said to be because the mother is taken to be so powerful that eye contact on the infant's part is more than he could bear. But then came a time when one deep look from me into him could calm him beyond what anything else could do, such that Aaron's blessing took on great meaning to me, as I could lift up my countenance upon Tobias and grant him peace. And now comes a time when he knows my name, can take that sense of presence and comfort with him wherever he goes, and is ever more encouraged and inspired to live fully into the world. This is the path that we are on with God—a path that leads from fear and awe to freely chosen love for this One who promises not that nothing bad will ever happen to us but that never will God leave us to ourselves alone, and who invites us each to call on God by name.

— Elizabeth Goodman

## Gould Farm's "Tiny Bubbles Performance Collective"

Linsey Bostwick's travels from New York City to Monterey have little to do with the beauty of the Berkshires. It is her passion for theater combined with a personal desire to help people coping with mental illness, and now the guests at Gould Farm are reaping the benefits of her generosity.

Bostwick, originally from California, has degrees in theater and communications. She is a production manager and performer with a traveling theater company and also does photographic exhibitions. Shortly after her brother was diagnosed with schizophrenia, she wrote a play called "Snaphappy" about her brother's illness. The play helped Bostwick convey the experiences that her brother and the family were having in coping with the symptoms of mental illness. It was well-received by the New York City audience.

Twenty-nine-year-old Ms. Bostwick wanted to do more. She began volunteering at New York's Fountain House, a clubhouse self-help program in operation since 1948. Then she heard about Gould Farm, America's oldest therapeutic residential program for people struggling with mental illness. She visited the Monterey-based program to look around and felt motivated to return to the Gould Farm community to offer her talents and resources in theater and writing.

While the fall winds blew outside one recent fall weekend, Ms. Bostwick was busy inside helping Gould Farm guests and staff set up the "Tiny Bubbles Performance Collective" to celebrate the community's talents. Future plans include a film shoot, costume workshop, and drama workshops. "Gould Farm is benefiting greatly from Linsey's contagious enthusiasm and her breadth of knowledge about theater," said Gould Farm Executive Director Catherine Tower. "We're so thankful that she found our community."

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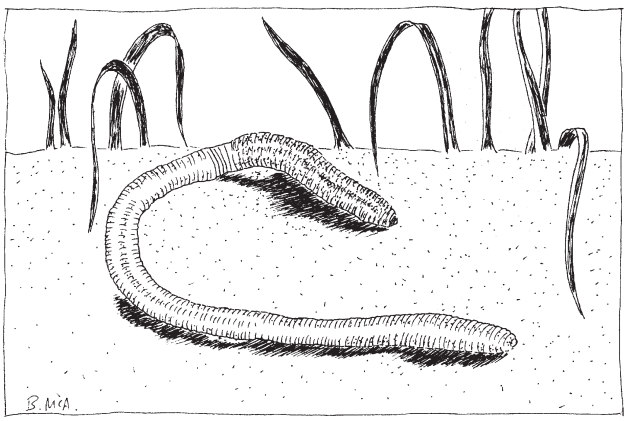
## Worms, Then and Now

Early memories (mine): Worms seemed so vulnerable. Getting a worm out of a hole without breaking it was slow work. How did they hang on in there? No claws, no heels to dig in. Then I became a hunter and used worms for bait. All that careful coaxing to get them out undamaged—where did it go as I learned to thread the creatures onto a fishhook? And what about the things I did to the fish once I caught it.

Middle life (mine): No longer interested in hunting worms or fish, headed for vegetarianism. Worms squirming their way into the Friend category again but this time not looking so vulnerable, maybe because I was getting the picture that they were Many, or maybe because this time I wasn't sticking them with hooks.

Now (me): I am seeing new worms and they are red. I don't remember them from the early or middle memories. Those were pinkish-grayish-brown and a couple of inches long, kind of stubby at the hind end and often having a pale ring around the body. The front end was pointier and more active, searching. But these red worms are something new. How do I feel about new things that are Many? A little freaked, but it's not as scary as it would be if they were anything but worms. Worms still seem so unarmed.

In the world we have 1,800 species of earthworms, according to one source, and in North America only 100. This is a small number, to a biologist. The Pleistocene glaciations here did in all the worms, recently, and they had to start over. In the genus *Lumbricus* we have 17 native species, and they are mostly found in the Southeast and the Pacific Northwest, where the glaciers have not been such a factor. On their own steam, worms move slowly and don't colonize new areas very much. But once they hook up with people they get everywhere.



Some of my best friends have gone into the worm business one way or another, buying them through catalogues and keeping a tubful in the kitchen to make lovely humus out of potato peels or else adding handfuls of them to garden compost to work the organic matter into castings, which make such good fertilizer.

What is meant by "castings"? This is the material that has been through the worms' digestion system and out the other side. It begins as organic matter and this is what it still is when it emerges (not so different from us). In California at the North American Bait Farms, worms have been put to work on city garbage. First people removed the rubber, glass, and metal (who got that job?) from 10 tons of city garbage, and then 5.6 million worms started in. After 45 days, the garbage was all gone. The worm population had doubled and 3 tons of "vermicompost" had been produced, ready to fertilize orchards, fields, and vegetable gardens.

There are 90,000 farms raising and selling earthworms in the $50-million-a-year bait and compost industry. The two most popular types of worms in the business are the northern native night crawler and the red wiggler. On the face of it, you'd think there could be no higher calling than the promotion of worms, but promotion and profit-making lead to raised numbers, or that element "Many" that has raised my neck hairs.

I was cleaning the root cellar, scooping out the melted remains of the '04 carrots with a big metal spoon, hoping to make the place fit to receive the splendid new crop. Under one soggy corner of the bin I found many worms, red and wiggly. These are not the bait worms of my early memory. They have come here from somewhere, and not on their own. Maybe they were imported from the California Bait Farm for a day of fishing, or maybe they came with a kitchen worm tub kit and were added to a nearby garden along with a bucket of castings. Now I see them in the barnyard in the water trough, and when

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I pick up the rubber bucket to refill it for the old pony I find a crowd of red wigglers living underneath.

If this is *Lumbricus rubellus,* how is it getting along with *L. terrestris* of my childhood? The books tell me the red ones are a problem, reproducing fast, eating up the leaf litter in a Michigan forest, and leaving it unfit habitat for certain little arthropods upon which the salamanders depend. So the salamanders are in a decline. Similarly the rare goblin fern is endangered by the presence of the red wigglers.

Look up earthworms and you get plenty of positive stories. Add the word "invasive" and suddenly the very same creatures are a hazard. I don't mean to pooh-pooh this. There *was* something hazardous, I felt, about that mass under the rubber bucket. They never used to be there, and now they are there in spades. Deep down in my elemental inside, where I am a wiggler myself, I know the problem is numbers. It's true of all of us: when we are few, we are vulnerable and seem so unarmed. When we are many, look out, goblin ferns and salamanders.

— Bonner J. McAllester

ॐ


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## Small-Scale Solar Energy Workshop Nov. 3rd in Lee

Solar energy for your home or business is the subject of a workshop presented by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) to highlight small-scale solar energy technologies and exciting new funding opportunities. Anyone who is curious about what's involved in using solar energy at home or work is encouraged to attend the informational workshop, which will be presented in Lee on Thursday, November 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Lee Council on Aging, 45 Railroad Street. Chris Vreeland, a registered professional engineer, will be the featured speaker. The workshop is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged.

CET's solar energy workshop will help participants learn if a sun-powered renewable energy system is a good fit. Those who attend will learn the basics of using energy from the sun to create electricity or heat water. They will also learn how solar panels work, the components of a solar electric system, how to determine whether they have a good site, and how to gain additional benefits through energy efficient improvements. Also covered will be average prices for solar electric and solar hot water systems, and how to find local contractors who install systems. Systems that have recently been installed in the Berkshires will be highlighted.

The workshop will also discuss financial incentives available from the state and federal governments. Mr. Vreeland will give an overview of those incentives and will summarize a new program offered by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to help homeowners and small businesses pay for renewable energy systems. He will describe the new federal tax credits that will be available in 2006 and 2007.

Please pre-register if you are interested in attending. To find out more or to pre-register, contact Amy Johns, at 413-445-4556 ext. 14 or email her at amyj@cetonline.org.

## Introduction to Reading Site Plans Workshop

The Highland Communities Initiative is sponsoring an interactive workshop on Thursday, November 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Becket Town Hall. Professional Engineer Dan Dulaski will cover the fundamentals of interpreting technical plans and engineering drawings. Volunteer board members frequently review complicated plans and need to visualize how they will look and function when built. Participants will learn valuable lessons to use in the next project review and enhance their confidence in working with engineers. The cost is $15 per person; preregistration is required. For information or to register call 413-268-8219 or email jchristensen@ttor.org.

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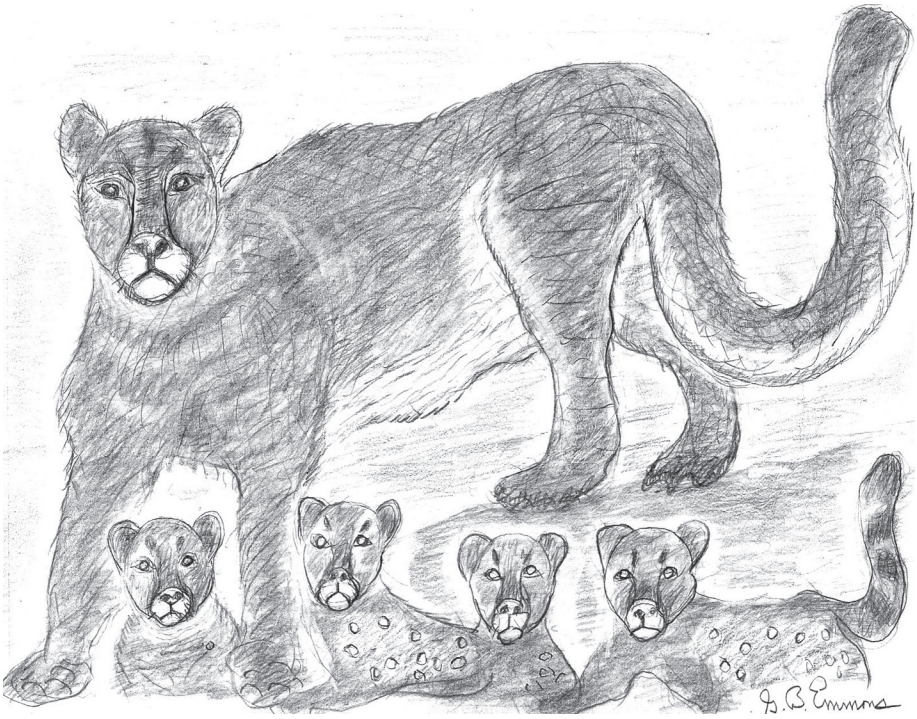
# Mountain Lions



What do the Rocky Mountains have in common with the Berkshires, as each rise into the sky across the horizon ? Just as the Ute Indians followed game trails across the Continental Divide, so hikers today walk the Appalachian Trail that Mahicans called Big Path. And connecting their time and place with this are mountain lions.

"Young mountain lions, are born in protected dens in caves or under ledges or roots. There can be up to six young born at one time. Cubs have a speckled coat and a ringed tail, but these markings disappear as they grow. They become independent of their mother after two years." I learned all this at the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Center in Colorado several weeks ago.

Rocky Mountain National Park rangers believe that the big cats there are losing their fear of people, and they have been seen watching visitors along the trails from a crouched position, while switching their tails. However, their main diet as "ambush predators" are calves of mule deer and elk, or sickly adults. Nevertheless, there is some concern.

During a weeklong visit with daily excursions into the mountains, we were told of a family having lunch at a picnic table placed between a parking lot and a trailhead. After lunch they took a group picture, which when developed revealed a mountain lion perched about thirty feet up in the crotch of a ponderosa pine, about forty yards away. The picnic table was removed because the head and remains of a mule deer were found in the same crotch of the tree, and the lion was becoming a possible danger to picnickers and hikers drawn to the location.

Mountain lions have extremely strong rear legs and can climb a tree dragging their kill with them, as in the case of the missing cow calves in Tyringham that were later found in a tree, probably to keep them away from coyotes. I also talked with a camper in Colorado who had seen a lion swimming across a wide mountain lake. When chasing their prey, lions can leap as far as thirty feet in a single bound. Most of the assaults on people (fewer than eighteen killed in the last one hundred years in the U.S. and Canada) are usually mistaken identity, the confusion of a person running away with their natural prey.

Since the *Monterey News* published a sighting in Monterey a number of years ago in David McAllester's wildlife column, there have been a steady stream of subsequent reports here by our citizens, such as Gige O'Connell, Jan Emmons, Ed Briggs, Larry Klein, Rita Kasky, Jane Salamon, and Anson Olds. The last time Anson saw one was crossing Brett Road, near Bill Bell's farmhouse. He called me immediately and showed me where it had disappeared into a wetland at the side of the road. I then I went in to check the tracks, and there was little doubt about the large cat print more than five inches wide and six inches long. Even more surprising were the smaller prints of three or four cubs. These have had time to grow up now, and when full grown the Mountain Lion is no less than the fourth largest big cat in tne world.

Should we post warnings along high rocky elevations of the Appalachian Trail and remote areas of our local nature and historic paths not to allow children to run ahead by themselves? This may be a bit premature. The Rocky Mountains have stood against the sky for forty-five million years, and their wild animals have been there continuously longer than ours. As long as the Berkshire food supply satisfies our recent and sparse return of big cats, there is little to worry about, at least for the time being. However . . . several hunters tell the deer population is way down!

— George Emmons

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## In the Astrodome with Katrina Victims

In the week following the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina and the timely birth of the first September-due baby, for whom I was midwife, my sketchy plans for a little vacation were transformed into a getaway of a different sort—a journey into the world of human-life devastation and volunteer disaster relief work. I had a little window of time to offer, and within twenty-four hours of my call to the Red Cross I was on a plane to Houston, bracing myself for the next two weeks in the middle of the unimaginable.

My experience as a mental health worker at the Astrodome, Reliant Center, and Arena in Houston during those two weeks following Katrina was densely textured with a full array of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual challenges. It was an experience of complete exhaustion from extensive walking and difficult working hours; huge frustration with organizational deficits and communication gaps; and concern about the myriad unmet needs of victims—especially the elderly, physically ill, cognitively challenged, physically disabled, emotionally unstable and mentally ill, single and pregnant mothers, and the people who were alone or who had lost family members during the disaster. It was an experience of constant sensory assault from the environmental conditions of the shelter—from the bright lights day and night; from the loud speaker and din of thousands of voices echoing across the vast hall; from the smells of humanity sick, stressed and soiled; from the visual chaos of people in motion, children running, rubber balls bouncing, cots piled high with blankets and newly acquired belongings, and trash strewn around overflowing containers; and from the emotional climate of collective distress, loss, frustration, anxiety, tension, uncertainty, despair, and destitution. It was an experience of dramatic and disturbing contrasts revealed in shuffling back and forth from the grim realities of shelter existence, with the imminent and complete uncertainty of every person housed within, to the personal, off-duty luxury of a soft bed, clean linens, warm bath, and the secure knowledge that all was well in the life and home I would return to soon, where beauty, fresh air, blessed quiet, and order prevail.

It was also an experience of the deep satisfaction that comes with being present for another human being, in the moment, with every available faculty of compassion, understanding, wisdom, and resourcefulness being drawn upon and freely given. It was an experience of extraordinary and immediate camaraderie with fellow volunteers. It was an experience of listening to stories of unspeakable events that desperately needed to be told, holding hands and stroking shoulders, rocking babies to sleep, delivering an extra blanket here and there, cooling an argument, calming agitation, and sometimes managing to successfully obtain appropriate medical, mental health, or social services for a family or individual from the thinly stretched resources of Houston/Harris County. Above all, it was an experience of deep gratitude for everything in life of true and lasting beauty and worth; and it was an experience of knowing how very little I, as one person, could do in the immensity of need, but also knowing that it is the sum of the work that countless thousands do that will eventually makes the difference.

*And,* it was a crash course in Chaos 101. Much was learned in that course … I learned that the core characteristic and very nature of Disaster *is* Chaos, and the magnitude of the disaster, in large part, defines the magnitude of the chaos. I learned that our job as disaster relief workers is to collectively and individually work, to the best of our abilities, to bit-by-bit and day-by-day help create a new order out of the prevailing chaos. I learned that as disaster relief workers we voluntarily place ourselves squarely in the middle of that chaos, and we need to be well prepared to maintain personal balance and physical health within that so that we do not also become victims of chaos. Most of all I learned about the resilience and beauty of the human spirit that rises up through and beyond the temporary state of chaos and pain, like the lotus from the mud, to somehow meet the demands of the next day, to still smile and laugh, to touch and be touched by another human being, to be grateful for the little blessings of kindness and generosity, and to strive for a better life in a better world.

Stories abound. I am still visited daily by memories of the countless traumatized and benumbed people whose cots I sat upon for a few minutes; who graciously accepted the most meager offers of help; who somehow managed to maintain a level of dignity within the most demeaning of circumstances; who unhesitatingly recounted their most shattering experiences; who revealed in a flash the depth of their faith and inmost personal integrity and beauty; and whose lives go on, somewhere, now unknown to me.

It seems that integrating an experience like this must include an effort to use the experience further to the benefit of others in the future. I'm still working on this. The questions that come to mind at this point are these: How would I, my family and close friends, and our own community cope in the face of similar circumstances? What are our resources? What is our preparedness? What is our capacity to self-organize? What is our capacity to gracefully let go of all that is in excess of necessity? What is our capacity to help each other survive and go on with life when all else seems lost?

— Kathie Frome


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## Consumer Protection Home Improvement Task Force

The Office of the Attorney General is on the front line working for consumers across the commonwealth, advocating for laws and regulations protecting consumer rights and increased public education to prevent business fraud. Because of its commitment to consumers, the Attorney General's Office has approved the convening of a Home Improvement Task Force in Monterey. The purpose of this task force will be to provide education and information for residents considering home improvement projects.

Recent publications of the AGO and Office of Consumer Affairs report that residents of Massachusetts are experiencing a flip negative of a "carpentry boom" and complaining about an epidemic of "carpenter scam." In 2004, home improvement issues ranked second on the year-end list of complaints filed by consumers with the Massachusetts Consumer Complaint Hotline (www.consumeraffairs.com). The problem seems due to a lack of uniform monitoring of contractors, as well as the fact that many consumers do not understand their legal rights.

The Attorney General lists some recent violations of the Consumer Protection and Home Improvement Contractor Acts:

- executing contracts, taking payments, and then failing to deliver services; making false representations of work quality or pace;
- pressuring consumers into paying deposits in excess of one-third;
- refusing to give homeowners refunds after not finishing the work; and
- failing to obtain permits.

The AGO and Paul J. Schiaver, Chair of the Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition, reported in 2005 that homeowners may fall prey to cons using high-pressure tactics to sell overpriced contracts. Often these cons charge more than their quote or their work is substandard. Then when a consumer refuses to pay, the contractor threatens foreclosure on the consumer's home.

The AGO says scams are recognizable when contractors:

1. do not provide contracts with registration numbers or insurance;
2. do not provide references;
3. do not secure permits;
4. inflate costs or ask for more money than what is legal;
5. fail to complete or make corrections in the work as per work order;
6. give false information about building codes, or ignore codes;
7. misrepresent themselves as having a license;
8. fail to credit homeowners for materials not used;
9. abandon a job before completion;
10. demand payment after abandonment.

These behaviors may be classified "illegal, unfair and deceptive practice, presenting a danger to the community."

Some of the information consumers will receive at the Monterey Consumer Task Force meetings includes:

- understanding home improvement law;
- hiring registered/licensed contractors (AGO T. Reilly's Consumer Hotline: 617-727-8400);
- checking on a contractor's registration (Department of Public Safety: 617-727-8598);
- knowing when a contract is legal;
- knowing when an estimate is fair;
- recognizing deceptive and unfair tactics;
- understanding legal payment procedures (i.e., illegal contractors collect final payments before the contract is fully performed);
- understanding the TILA (Truth in Lending Act) and its protections;
- Understanding "Implied Warranties";
- Understanding the Federal Trade Commission's enforcement of antitrust laws, and acts to curb deceptive advertising (Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Washington, D.C. );
- home improvement litigation tips;
- fraud preventive counseling.

One of the primary tasks of the consumer task force will be to support the continued business of reputable area contractors and businesses.

Copies of "The Attorney General's Consumer Guide To Home Improvement" and other educational publications will be distributed and discussed. Representatives from the AGO, building inspectors, local police, legal advocates, and district court representatives will be invited speakers. Volunteers will schedule initial task force meetings until officers can be elected. Meeting minutes will be recorded and made available to the public.

Interested residents are asked to email suggestions for regular meeting dates and times to toominds@aol.com or call 413-644-9630. Include name, phone number and email address so you can be notified of the first meeting.

— Dr. Laura Catullo


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## Another Beach Interview

*Lily Chapman, age nine and a half, interviewed our two new lifeguards at Lake Garfield at the end of their first summer as lifeguards. We are thankful that Emily Shaw and Megan Olivieri so steadfastly and kindly looked over the swimmers at the lake on Sundays and Mondays this past summer.*

Lily: *What jobs do you have besides lifeguarding?*
Emily: I babysit for several families in and around Monterey.
Megan: I've been a lifeguard at Berkshire South for three years now, and the rest of my summer jobs have been gardening, catering, house cleaning, and being a camp counselor at Berkshire South.

Lily: *What do you like about lifeguarding?*
Emily: I like the fact that I have the ability to help people if needed.
Megan: Lifeguarding is a respectful job; we've done extensive training and hold the ability to make rescues.

Lily: *Where were you born?*
Emily: I was born at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.
Megan: Hartford Hospital, Connecticut

Lily: *Where do you go to school?*
Emily: I'll be a junior at Mount Everett.

Glynis Oliver

*High tide at Lake Garfield beach, October 9, 2005.*

Megan: I attended Simon's Rock last year. I will be taking the fall semester off, but will finish my AA degree the second semester at BCC.

Lily: *What do you learn in school?*
Emily: I learn all kinds of things, but because I'm still in high school I have to take all the basic classes. When I am in college I'll be able to take the classes that really interest me.
Megan: In college I majored in liberal arts and was studying opera. I learned a lot about presence and poise and its effects on stage. I also learned great voice tricks.

Lily: *Would you like to lifeguard next summer?*
Emily: Yes, I would love to. The beach is definitely the best place to lifeguard because of the friendly atmosphere.
Megan: I agree exactly with Emily. This beach is great because everyone wants to get to know you.

Lily: *How old were you when you started swimming?*
Emily: I was four when I started the lessons here at the beach, but I've always loved the water.
Megan: I took lessons at York Lake and the Winstead YMCA when I was really young. My mom always told me I was a fish.

Lily: *What do you want to be when you grow up?*
Emily: Well, I'm very interested in the field of law. I'm still not sure about what specific kind yet, but I still have time to decide.
Megan: Opera was a great dream, and I will still perform, but a more realistic job interest for me is real estate. I'd love to get into European real estate.

Lily: *How old were you when you decided to lifeguard?*
Emily: I'm not sure when it was. I always thought that it would be a cool job.
Megan: I was fifteen. My best friend and I decided to take the class and work at

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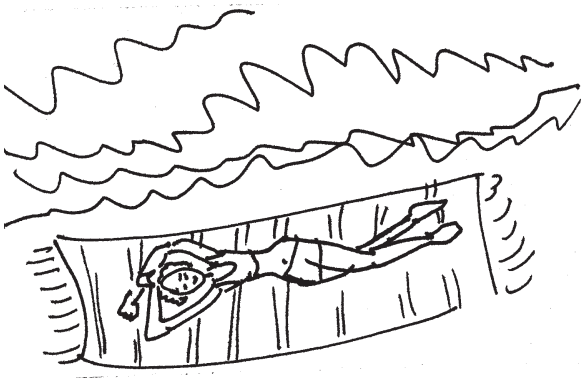
the little pond in Colebrook, where we grew up.



Lily: *What do you do on vacation?*
Emily: It depends on where we go. I always love to go to the ocean, but it is also nice to go shopping or just relax.
Megan: My family vacations are always to the beach; we had a little cottage in Eastham, Cape Cod. We also visit Baja, Mexico, to see my grandfather.

Lily: *What do you do during the winter?*
Emily: I usually hang out with my friends and take time to relax in between fall and spring sports.
Megan: Winter is a booming time for rehearsals in my chorus. We are usually getting ready for our Christmas concerts—come and see Chorus Angelicus.

Lily: *Does it feel different to lifeguard here as opposed to elsewhere because you grew up here?*
Emily: The beach certainly does have some sentimental value to me. I grew up in Monterey and have been coming here since I was little.
Megan: I grew up in Sandisfield, right on the border of Connecticut, so I spent time at Colebrook Pond. But I live in Monterey now and love this town and this beach.

Lily: *Do you ever want to become a swim instructor?*
Emily: Yes, I think that it would be cool to be able to teach people how to swim and hope that they learn to love it as much as I do.
Megan: I wanted to all last year, but there is always so much to do in so little time. I'd love to teach really young children so I could show them a great time like I had in swim lessons.

Lily: *Where do you want to live when you grow up?*
Emily: I'm not sure. There are so many places that I want to visit, but I haven't thought about where I want to live yet.
Megan: Definitely in Europe. My family is from parts of Sicily and Northern Italy, so I'd definitely love to spend lots of time there. But I'd also love to live in Ireland because it's absolutely gorgeous and the people are so friendly.

# P.O. Box 9, 01245

## Does Anyone Remember the Poem about Spot?

To the Editor:

My mother used to recite a poem, "The Little Dog under the Wagon." It was about a farmer and his wife going to town with a horse and wagon. They had a little dog named Spot. This time they didn't take him with them. He went anyway, but stayed under the wagon, and they thought he was home. I remember parts of the poem and would like very much to have it all. The parts I remember are:

"Poor Spot," said she, "did want to come but I'm awfully glad we left him home. He'll guard the house and guard the stock and keep the cattle out of the lot." "I'm not so sure of that," thought Spot, the little dog under the wagon.

On the way home they were held up by a burglar, and the poem continues: Spot pulled him down in the mud and dirt and tore his coat and tore his shirt.

I don't remember the rest of it. If anyone has it and could send me a copy, I would appreciate it very much.

— Eleanor Kimberley,
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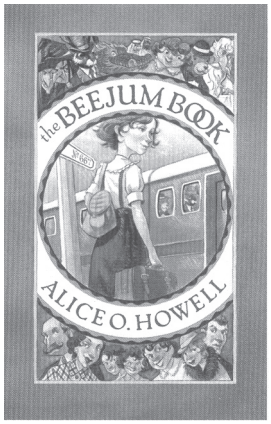


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— Andrew Harvey, author of ***The Direct Path***

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## Monterey Education Survey

The Monterey Education Committee has produced a survey for parents of school-age children in town to ascertain their educational goals and preferences for their children. All parents with school-age children are encouraged to fill out the survey so that we may better serve our community. Copies of the survey will be available online at the town's website (http://www.monterey-ma.org/) under "Town Government and Departments/ Education Committee," and in Town Hall in early November, after we have received an official count of this year's students. The Education Committee will meet every third Monday night of the month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Please free feel to attend, and thanks for your participation in this very important endeavor. You will be helping to shape the future education choices Monterey provides for its children.

## Gould Farm Harvest Catalog

The harvest and products of Gould Farm are now available to the public through a newly released holiday gift catalog. Maple syrup, cheddar cheese, pancake mix, maple vinaigrette dressing, and note cards are among the varied products that can be incorporated in a gift package. Liz Garrigan-Byerley, Harvest Barn Manager, has worked with Gould Farm guests and staff to produce a new tea package using the farm's specially made teabags from organically grown apple mint leaves. Catalogs can be obtained at Gould Farm's Roadside store or found online at www.gouldfarm.org.

## Remembering Arnold Garber

Arnold Lloyd Garber, 76, formerly of Tyringham Road, Monterey, died Thursday, September 15, in Boynton Beach, Florida. He had recently moved to Boynton Beach after living in Monterey since 1975.

Bom in New York City on March 1, 1929, son of Harry and Selma Loria Garber, he attended schools there.

Mr. Garber retired in 1988 as president of Intimate Apparel Industry, where he began as a shipping clerk.

He was a longtime member of Stockbridge Golf Club and the Berkshire Seniors Golf League.

He and his wife, the former Janet Gottlieb, were married in 1969.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Holly Garfen of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and Jill Gordon of Rumson, N.J.; a sister, Shirley Eisenstein of Malverne, N.Y., and five grandchildren.

Those who desire may make memorial contributions to Bethesda Hospital Foundation through the Finnerty & Steven Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

## The Observer
### September 26–October 25

High temp. (10/6, 7)..... 75°
Low temp. (10/21) ..... 30°
Avg. high temp. ..... 61.3°
Avg. low temp. ..... 43.7°
Avg. temp. ..... 52.5°
Total rainfall..... 16.35 in.

On one day, October 8, the recorded rainfall was 8.49 in. (The record one-day rainfall is 9.18 in., which caused widespread flooding in August 1955.) The two-day rainfall total for October 7/8 was 10.59 in.

*Thanks to Maynard Forbes for supplying the weather data every month.*

## Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions:
Ray & Bill Kirby
Stefan Brecht
Robert & Roberta Silman
Peter & Mary Alice Amidon
Jonathan & Catharyn Fletcher

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*Pat Arnow, p. 22; Maureen Banner, pp. 6, 11;*
*George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.*

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